

here, it is worthy of note that there were only four in the infirmary. The houses were in every particular well equipped, and the whole practically a self contained village. The children go about after school hours with freedom and reasonable latitude. They are under good but not too strict discipline. They are sent to the town of Sidcup, which is near by, and do messages and shopping. Their personal appearance, and politeness when spoken to, reflected credit on the Superintendent and lady Matron, and while there were, as might be expected, some poor and indifferent types among the children, the percentage of such was small. The Staff of Officers, from the Superintendent and Matron down, seemed to me to possess qualities well calculated to inspire manliness and self-respect in the children.

The St. Pancras Schools and Homes were next visited. These schools and homes, which are splendidly equipped and officered, are classified as follows:—

(a) Maternity wards. As the name indicates these are really hospitals. They are part and parcel of the workhouse system. Their need is felt in a great Metropolitan city like London, with its complexity of population. Women who are homeless, or without proper home conveniences, are cared for and provided with free medical and nursing attention in these wards. The children seen here are not all born in the workhouse, but are in many cases brought there at an early age by parents or guardians. The mother and child, (if it happens to be an infant of the nursing age) remain in the nursing mother's ward until the infant is weaned, when it passes on to the nursery. At the age of three years it is transferred to one or other of the block or district homes.

(b) Nursery wards, provided for children of three years and under.

(c) A Receiving Home for 'in and out' transients, and children en route for one of the block schools. Almost immediately following the reception of an unaccompanied child in the workhouse it is sent to the Receiving Home, its stay in the workhouse depending upon the hour of its reception. A child received after 8.30 p.m. usually spends the night in the workhouse, but does not come in contact with the adult population of the Institution and therefore cannot properly be designated a 'workhouse child.'

As far back as 1837 the attention of the Home Government was directed to the necessity for better facilities for the instruction of children than the then existing schools, situated within the workhouse area, afforded. The Local Government Board thereupon addressed a circular letter to the various Boards of Guardians, urging that where feasible Boards should group and combine to establish homes and schools in which a more satisfactory training and education could be had, and with the further object of removing young children from association with the ordinary workhouse habitue. The result is the present system.

St. Margaret's Receiving Home (Parish of St. Pancras) at the time of my visit contained thirty-three children, twenty of whom were from three to eight years of age, and thirteen from eight to sixteen years of age. The children of school age attend the London County Council schools in the neighbourhood, and associate with